

in Nelson et al. shows an inflated inner airbag 4 within an outer bag. The gas inlet openings are represented by reference number 5. As shown in Figure 1, gas can not escape from the inner airbag 4 by traveling straight from the inflator 3 to the outer bag. There are no openings in the portion of the inner airbag that is furthest away from the inflator 3, instead, the gas escaped through gas outlet openings 5 which are on the side of the inflated inner airbag 4. Figure 2 shows a side view of the inner airbag and this figure clearly shows that there is not an opening in the portion of the inner airbag directly opposite the inflator opening 2 or 7. In all of the disclosed embodiments in Nelson, there are no openings in the portion of the inner airbag 4 directly opposite the inflator opening 2 or 7. The embodiments in Nelson et al. differ by the stitching pattern, which creates different number of gas outlet openings.

In applicants' claimed invention, an airbag comprises a baffle with a baffle opening aligned with at least one third of the inflator opening. According to the specification, a one third alignment exits when one third of the inflator opening is visible when looking through the baffle toward the inflator. Nelson does not teach or suggest the presence of a baffle opening directly opposite the inflator opening. Furthermore, Nelson teaches away from applicants' claimed invention because it teaches an inner airbag having gas outlet openings on the sides of the inner airbag to increase the tortuous flow path of the inflation gas inside the inner airbag. Thus, applicants submit that claim 1 and 14 are not anticipated and should be allowed. Applicants submit that all of the pending dependent claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should also be allowed.

**B. 35 U.S.C. 103**

The examiner rejected claims 6-9 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. as being unpatentable over Nelson et al. in view of Tagushi et al. Applicants have contended above that claims 1 and 14 should be allowed above, and thus all of these dependent claims should also be allowed.

Serial No. 09/992,981

It is believed that the application is in form and condition for allowance and such action by the examiner is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarett Rieger", is written over a horizontal line.

Jarett Rieger

Registration No. 48,864

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Breed Technologies, Inc.

P.O. Box 33050

Lakeland, Florida 33807-3050

Phone (863) 668-6403

Fax (863) 668-6130